



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

JAN 04 2017

Re: Denial of Request for Extension of Comment Period Regarding the Nominations to the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals, EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0713

Mr. Walls,

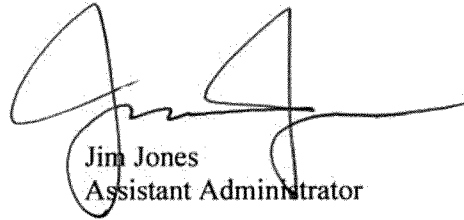
EPA agrees with American Chemistry Council (ACC) that the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) will serve a very important advisory role to EPA, including providing independent advice and expert consultation regarding scientific and technical issues. For this reason, on August 26, 2016, EPA opened a 45-day period for public nominations and comments for the SACC. In addition, on December 9, 2016, EPA opened an additional 30-day period for public comments on a short list of candidates that resulted from EPA's initial screening of the nominations. Through this 75-day public input process, EPA has obtained sufficient information to make informed selection decisions for the SACC. Therefore, the Agency does not believe that extending the public comment period further is necessary.

As described in the *Federal Register* of December 9, 2016, by the closing of the SACC nomination period on October 11, 2016, EPA had received approximately 100 nominees. EPA considered the following criteria to select candidates from these nominations: interest and availability to participate in committee meetings, absence of financial conflicts of interest, absence of the appearance of a loss of impartiality, scientific expertise, and backgrounds and experiences that would contribute to the diversity of scientific viewpoints on the committee, including professional experiences in government, labor, public health, public interest, animal protection, industry, or other groups. Based on these criteria, EPA identified 29 candidates for further consideration for membership on the SACC.

As noted in the *Federal Register* notices of August 26 and December 9, 2016, and in the December 30, 2016 SACC Charter (see <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-peer-review/science-advisory-committee-chemicals-charter>), EPA anticipates that the SACC will be composed of approximately 14 members. This is not a limit but an estimate of the number of members based on the function of the committee and the need for representation across a number of scientific disciplines and professional experiences. This estimate also accounts for the ability of the SACC to augment the scientific expertise and professional experiences of the chartered committee through subcommittee and workgroup member participation.

Once the members have been appointed, the SACC will supersede the EPA Chemical Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC). Since the recently appointed CSAC members were identified through a public nomination process and selected based on criteria that are nearly identical to those being used for the SACC membership, EPA included the interested and available CSAC members as candidates for the SACC. This was noted in both the August 26 and December 9, 2016 *Federal Register* notices. At this

time, the 29 candidates listed in the December 9, 2016 *Federal Register* are all under consideration for the SACC and final selection decisions will be based on the criteria described in the notice, including scientific expertise and backgrounds and experiences that would contribute to the diversity of scientific viewpoints on the committee.



Jim Jones
Assistant Administrator

CC: Wendy Cleland-Hamnett
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